

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05834 130904Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 IO-14 AID-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5082

UNCLAS SEOUL 5834

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, SOPN, OVIP, KS
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY HABIB VISIT TO SEOUL

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S
COMMENTS TO THE PRESS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM SEOUL AT
0600 GMT JULY 13:

HABIB: WELL, AS YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T COME FOR ANY PARTICULAR
PRESS CONFERENCE. I CAME FOR THE PURPOSE OF TALKING WITH
GENERAL VESSEY AND AMBASSADOR SNEIDER. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER, AS
MY HOST, SAW TO IT THAT I WAS WELL TAKEN CARE OF WHILE I WAS
HERE. HE AND GENERAL VESSEY AND I HAD SOME THINGS TO TALK
ABOUT THAT ARE RELATED TO THE FORTHCOMING SECURITY CONSULTATIVE
MEETING. IT'S NOT THAT THERE WERE ANY DIFFICULTIES; IT'S JUST
THAT IT WAS THOUGHT DESIRABLE IF I CAME OUT AND CHECKED A FEW
THINGS WITH THEM IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE. THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILL BE HERE IN TWO WEEKS' TIME, AT WHICH
TIME HE WILL MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPART, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.
THEY WILL DISCUSS FURTHER THOSE ITEMS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN
TALKED ABOUT IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING GRADUAL
WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES IN KOREA. NOW, MY VISIT
HERE WAS BASICALLY, AS STATED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING
WITH AMBASSADOR SNEIDER AND GENERAL VESSEY. I DID, OF COURSE,
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AS IS POLITE AND PROPER, MAKE COURTESY CALLS ON APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MAKING A BRIEF COURTESY CALL
ON THE PRESIDENT THIS MORNING, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE
FOREIGN MINISTER PREVIOUS TO THAT.

Q: IN YOUR MEETING WITH KOREAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS, DID YOU
CONVEY ANY MESSAGES EITHER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER OR FROM MR.

(INAUDIBLE)...

HABIB: THAT WAS NOT THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT. OF COURSE, I CONVEYED GREETINGS BUT THAT WAS BASICALLY--I KNOW YOU SOMETIMES DOUBT THE WORLD AROUND YOU--BUT THAT WAS NOT THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, AND THEY WERE BASICALLY COURTESY CALLS, AT WHICH THERE WAS BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SOME OF THE THINGS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, BUT NOTHING OF ANY SERIOUS NATURE. THE DETAILS AND THE MATTERS THAT NEED TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF WHEN THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE COMES HERE AND THEY WILL AT THAT TIME BE DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY, I CAN ASSURE YOU.

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLAN OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING OR WILL THEY BE DRAGGED OUT AFTER THE MEETING?

HABIB: I WOULDN'T CALL IT DRAGGED OUT. AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN HAVING SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ALREADY BETWEEN THE PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE IN THE EMBASSY AND BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE ARMED FORCES. THAT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION IS NECESSARY SO THAT THE LARGER ISSUES CAN THEN BE DEALT WITH WHEN SECRETARY BROWN COMES. AFTER SECRETARY BROWN COMES AND THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES ARE LAID OUT, WHICH YOU WILL SEE IN THE COMMUNIQUE--YOU'LL KNOW IN A FEW WEEKS WHAT THE SCORE IS--AFTER-
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WARD THERE WILL STILL BE THE CONSTANT NECESSITY FOR VERY CLOSELY WORKING TOGETHER AND CONSULTATION ON THE PART OF OUR PEOPLE. AND THAT'S WHAT'S INTENDED, THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE, AND THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GOING TO BE.

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TAGS: OTRA, SOPN, OVIP, KS, (HABIB, PHILIP C)
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